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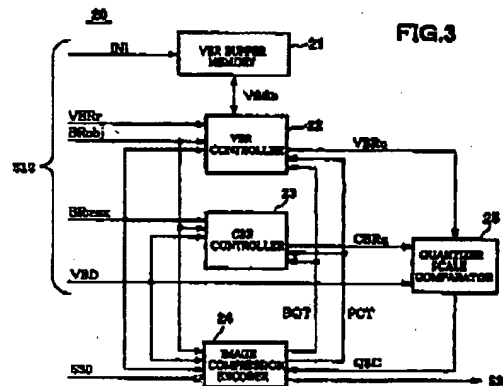
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(54) IMAGE ENCODER AND ITS METHOD

(57) An image encoder and its processing method for compression-encoding a dynamic image at a variable encoding rate in the case of an application required to perform real-time processing. A variable bit rate (VBR) control section (22) determines a VBR control quantizing scale VBRq according to a VBR buffer value held in a VBR buffer recording section (21). A constant bit rate (CBR) control section (23) determines a CBR control quantizing scale CBRq according to an inputted maximum bit rate BRmax. A quantizing scale comparing section (25) outputs the CBRq during constant rate encoding and outputs the larger one of the VBRq and CBRq during variable rate encoding. An image compression-encoding section (24) encodes the inputted image signal at a quantizing scale outputted from the quantizing scale comparing section (25) and outputs a bit stream(S20).



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